

Rome Ch. Innocent XI. Pope

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without fear of danger, and exerted his power
of cruel Government, we now have the opportunity
this kind in to fit an opportunity to your Majesty take
up Arms to maintain the Liberty of the Church, and the
of a fair A. friendship of a Royal W. with the most
most Christian King. We are extremely obliged to you
the which offers our to follow the most illustrious
away in Sports and Delights, your Majesty should employ
to generally, to fortify, to fortify, to fortify, to fortify
conducting Armies, and bestowing of Honours, and
all not without the French King's assistance, and
Reign. I should be obliged to you to let me know
of your Majesty should let me know to the contrary
high an end prize, and the French King's assistance
stop others in their Country, and have as a sign to
the greatness of your Country, I hear you have the Re-
norm our French King, how you have the Re-
for you to the end: I am your Majesty's most
dole of Wars, and Brother of Peace, to you may be
be held the prize of War, and the Glory of the World.
From the Seat of our Apostolick See, which is
place of our Apostolick See, which is
assist your Majesty's Arms, and the French King's
Pope's prepare the Divine Benediction, and then
not but your own Virtue will be the cause of your
We, who have been your Majesty's most Christian King,
Nevertheless we have the Word of the Lord, which is
tions, that the Word of the Lord, which is

LETTER

FROM THE

POPE

TO THE

French KING.

To our dear Son in Christ Jesus, **LEWIS,**
the Most Christian King.

*Most dear Son in Christ, health
and our Apostolick Benediction,*

THE high Exploits of your Royal Valour have drawn
upon them the Eyes of all Christendom, being a
great deal of comfort to our Fatherly care, as well
in regard of the glory of the Army, as the hope
of your Triumph. For considering, as we do, with much
grief the impiety of the Hereticks, living in some places
with.

(2)

without fear or danger, and exercising on others the Laws of cruel Government, We now thank the Lord of Hosts, that hath in so fit an opportunity made your Majesty take up Arms to maintain the Divinity of the Catholick Religion (a fair Apprentiship of a Royal Warfare) and worthy of a most Christian King. What an admirable thing it is, that the age which others out of softness and idleness use to pass away in Sports and Delights, your Majesty should employ so generally, so fortunately, in appeasing Differences, in conducting Armies, and besieging places of Hereticks, and all not without the special Counsel of God by whom Kings Reign. It is almost incredible that the very first steps of your Youth should carry you to so troublesome and high an Enterprize, and the Dangers and difficulties which stop others in their Courses, should only serve as a Spur to the greatness of your Courage. Dear Son, keep the Renown your Name hath got, follow the God that fighteth for you to the end: As you are now held the Thunderbolt of War, and Buckler of Peace, so you may hereafter be held the praise of *Israel*, and the Glory of the World. From the Seat of our Apostolick Dignity, whither it hath pleased God to raise us, unworthy of so great a Grace, we assist your Armies with our hearts and affections, and to our Prayers prepare the Divine Remedies, and though we doubt not but your own Vertue will make you constant in the Work you have begun.

Nevertheless we have thought good to add our Exhortations, that the World may see the care we have of the advancement of the true Religion, and how willing we are to give way to your Glory, you being hitherto infinitely bound to God for his bounty towards you, having your mind indeed with Celestial Doctrine, and not with the bare Precepts of Humane Reasons, do well know that Kingdoms have their Foundations upon the truth of the Orthodox Faith, and indeed unless God keep the City what Principality can subsist with any assurance?

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(7)

It may be easily judged with what fidelity they are likely to defend the Royal Throne, that have cast the very Saints themselves out of the Temple, and done as much as in them lay to put them out of the number of the blessed, yea out of Paradise it self, that with impious temerity condemn Institutions of our Forefathers, the Customs of Kings, the Decrees of Popes, and the Ceremonies of the Church; these are disturbers of our Church and the Common-weal, and the Reproaches of *France*, whom the great God hath determined to be exterminated in your Reign: Know then that all *Europe* (which the event of the Reign holds now in suspense) hope shortly to hoist sail upon the Ocean under your conduct, to the end that place which now serves for sanctuary and protection to the Hereticks and Rebels may one day serve for a mark of your Victory.

We are confidently persuaded, that neither fear nor inconstancy shall ever be able to divert you from the pursuit of your *Enterprise*, only we would have you remember, that the Saints in Heaven assist him that takes upon him the defence of Religion, and fights on his side like Fellow-Souldiers. The same God that heretofore hardened the Waters like dry Land, and turned the Waters of the Sea into a Wall to give safe passage to his Childrens Army, will certainly be as favourable to you; and then we shall have good cause to hope, that after you have established your own Kingdom, and crush'd the impiety that is there, you may one day win the *Orient* and the *Occident*, imitating the Glory of Your Ancestors, who have born ever as much respect to the Exhortations of Popes, as to the Commandments of Saint *Lewis*, whose Name You bear, and whose steps You follow, invites You to it; so did the first of Your Race, who in defending the Apostolick Authority, and propagating Christian Religion, laid the surest and best Foundation of Your Royal House. Follow dear Son (which are the Ornaments of the World) the Commandments of Heaven, pour forth your Wrath and indignation

(4)

dignation upon those people that have not known God, to the end the divine Treasure of Heaven may belong to you by just acquisition; in the mean time we send you our Apostolick Benediction.

*Given at Rome in Great Saint Marys,
under the Seal of the Fisher.*

FINIS.

